

History of mediterranean

Oral exam, 2 books and 4 scientific articles we can find on the team class

- A short history of colonialism
- Decolonialism

Categories: colonialism, imperialism, neocolonialism and postcolonialism

Colonialism =/= imperialism

Colonialism = From the latin word *colonia* which means a farm or a settlement. When they arrived, referring to the Romans who, when settling in other lands, maintained their citizenship.

= a settlement in a new land (cf. oxford definition)

Oxford definition lack some points. Perspective Eurocentric.

- The first lack of the definition is the Eurocentric perspective. The colonized disappear in this definition.
- There is no reference to the people already living in the places the colonizers settle.
- No association of the word colonialism with encounters between peoples, conquest, and domination.
- No reference to the new location as a place that may not have been new for other peoples.
- No mention of the possibility that the process of forming the community might have been partially unjust.

How is the community formed in the colonial encounter?

Practices of uniformity or reformation

Practices -> texts -> practices

Ex: fantasy literature, testimonies, scientific literature, government records, commercial documents...

The modern European colonialism produces a social and economic devastation as never before. This is the main difference between this and the past form of colonialism.

Marxist theory of colonialism

Previous experiences (before 16th century) = precapitalist colonialism (after 16th century)

Marxist divides history in two periods: pre and post capitalism period.

It is true that ottoman empire and other civilizations colonized but it was a previous colonialism.

Modern colonialism = a process developing alongside western European capitalism

According to the theory, European capitalism also restructures their economies creating a flow of human and natural resources between colonizing and colonized countries.

Example: the travel of Indian culture

India (raw cotton) -> UK (transformation into fabric) -> India (where the fabric was resold, conditioning the local market)

The local market of cotton was totally erased bc the UK fabric produce and send a good price bc it is produces in huge amount. Indian got the cotton and UK had the technology. Another example of the way in which the economic flow of colonialism work is the production and consumption of sugar in Europe :

Africa -> slaves -> America (they work in plantation) -> sugar production -> European consumption

Consequences of profit and people flow

Europeans produced the economic imbalance necessary for the growth of European capitalism and industry. They needed colonialism to grow.

What is call imperialism?

At the beginning of the 20th century, Lenin and Kausty associated the term imperialism with a specific phase of capitalist development.

The growth of financial capitalism and industry in Western countries created an “enormous surplus of capital” -> how and where invest this capital?

Financial capitalism = money has to produce money

At the end of the 19th century, in Europe, there was a labor scarcity (= pénurie de main d’œuvre). It influences the way which you can invest your money.

- Domestic investment = surplus capital but labor scarcity
- Colonial investment: capital scarcity but ...

In that history period, capitalism to grow more needed to expand and subordinate non-industrialized countries.

The global system resulting from this process, called IMPERIALISM, represents the highest stage of capitalism in Lenin’s theory. Following Lenin’s thesis, scholar started to distinguish colonialism and imperialism.

- ⇒ Direct colonial rule is not necessary for imperialism
- ⇒ Economic and social dependency and control are sufficient to ensure subordinate

Colonialism is strictly linked to capitalism. It leads to imperialism when it comes to economical control (I don’t get it actually).

For imperialism, there is no need of political control.

